

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01978 131626Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SAL-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-04 OES-06

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P 131355Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7409

INFO USDOC PRIORITY

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USDOC FOR MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, RO

SUBJECT: US/ROMANIAN MARITIME TALKS

REF: STATE 088018

1. EMBASSY PASSED ALONG DATES PROPOSED STATE 081355 TO MATEESCU OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT APRIL 7 AND DISCUSSED IT WITH DIRECTOR OCANOAIA APRIL 9. HE ACCEPTED MAY 3-7 DATES ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE ON ROMANIAN SIDE. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH OCANOAIA AGAIN APRIL 13 AND RECONFIRMED APRIL 26-30 DATES.

2. OCANOAIA STRESSED AGAIN (SEE BUCHAREST 1361) THAT GOR WILL NEED A STATEMENT OF THE US POSITION ON THE UNRESOLVED ARTICLES OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BEFORE RESUMPTION OF TALKS.

3. SPEAKING "UNOFFICIALLY", HE POINTED OUT THAT GOR DELEGATION WOULD HAVE TO GET A MANDATE FROM HIGHER

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 01978 131626Z

AUTHORITY BEFORE TALKS COULD BE PRODUCTIVE. IN

RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, OCANOAIA SAID THAT STATEMENT OF US POSITION DID NOT CALL FOR PRE-LIMINARY NEGOTIATION, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE BINDING ON LATER NEGOTIATIONS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SEE NO POINT IN SCHEDULING TALKS IF GOR DELEGATION HAS NO MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE REMAINING ISSUES, AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT WILL DOUBTLESS NEED TIME TO GET ITS CLEARANCES. DOES THIS POSE PROBLEM FOR WASHINGTON? IF NOT, WHEN MIGHT WE BE ABLE TO STATE OUR POSITION?

4. PRUDENTIAL LINES HOPES TO OPEN SHARED OFFICE HERE LATER THIS MONTH, AND THEY HAVE HEARD GOR WOULD LIKE TO OPEN SHIPPING OFFICE IN NEW YORK. OTHER US LINES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DIRECT SERVICE TO CONSTANTA. EMBASSY WONDERS WHETHER SOME MENTION OF OFFICES MIGHT NOT BE USEFUL ADDITION TO MARITIME AGREEMENT, PERHAPS COMPARABLE TO ARTICLE 14 AND SIDE LETTER (PARA 2) OF US/ROMANIAN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT SIGNED DECEMBER 1973. WE DO NOT KNOW WHADHER LOCAL CURRENCY PROVISION WOULD BE SUEFUL TO US SHIPPING LINES OR MERELY COMPLICATE THEIR POSITION HERE, BUT IT HAS BEEN VERY IMPORTANT TO PAN AMERICAN. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES SEE MERIT IN SUCH AN ADDITION, BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVING SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IF WE PROPOSE IT IN ADVANCE.
BARNES

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